General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 February 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 108

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/457)*]

68/191. Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned that the global prevalence of different manifestations of the gender-related killing of women and girls[1] is reaching alarming proportions,

Concerned about violent gender-related killing of women and girls, while recognizing efforts made to address that form of violence in different regions, including in countries where the concept of femicide or feminicide has been incorporated into national legislation,

Aware that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, especially to the right to life, liberty and security of person, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

Emphasizing the importance of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[3] which defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private spheres,

Conscious of the commitments undertaken by States parties through the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4] which requires State parties to take all appropriate political, social, economic and cultural measures, including legislation, to ensure the full

[1] Gender-related killing of women and girls is criminalized in some countries as "femicide" or "feminicide" and has been incorporated as such into national legislation in those countries.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] Resolution 48/104.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Please recycle

development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men, taking into account the Optional Protocol to the Convention,[5]

Taking into consideration the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[6] which identifies violence against women as an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace, while emphasizing that such violence both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments and that the elimination of such discrimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Stressing that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent and investigate acts of violence against women and girls and punish the perpetrators, eliminate impunity and provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by victims of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind the actions and measures that Member States should take to meet their international obligations with respect to putting an end to violence against women and girls,

Recalling the relevant General Assembly resolutions addressing various aspects of violence against women and girls of all ages,

Stressing the significance of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice[7] as a way to assist countries in strengthening their national crime prevention and criminal justice capacities to respond to all forms of violence against women,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences[8] and Human Rights Council resolution 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,[9]

Taking note with appreciation of the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women of 15 March 2013,[10] in which, inter alia, the Commission urged all Governments to strengthen national legislation, where appropriate, to punish violent gender-related killing of women and girls and

---

[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] Resolution 65/228, annex.

[8] A/HRC/20/16.

[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and Corr.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

[10] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7* (E/2013/27).

integrate specific mechanisms or policies to prevent, investigate and eradicate such deplorable forms of gender-based violence,

Taking note with appreciation also of the various initiatives taken at the regional level to prevent and address violence against women, including, for example, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Region, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings,

Expressing its appreciation for the work undertaken by the United Nations system in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls,

Viewing with appreciation the considerable input of many civil society organizations, as well as academia, in addressing the different forms of violence against women and girls, through research and direct action in their respective communities,

Alarmed by the fact that violence against women and girls is among the least punished crimes in the world,

Deeply concerned about the high level of impunity with regard to gender-related killing of women and girls, and recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including in ending impunity for such crimes,

Reaffirming the commitment to working together to put an end to such crimes, in full compliance with international and national legal instruments,

1. *Urges* Member States to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish acts of violence against women and girls, in accordance with national laws;

2. *Also urges* Member States to consider undertaking institutional initiatives, as appropriate, to improve the prevention of gender-related killing of women and girls and the provision of legal protection, including appropriate remedies, reparation and compensation, to the victims of such crimes, in accordance with applicable national and international law and taking into account, as appropriate, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power;[11]

3. *Invites* Member States to adopt a variety of measures, including preventive measures and the enactment and implementation of legislation, that address gender-related killing of women and girls and to periodically review those measures with a view to improving them;

4. *Urges* Member States, acting at all levels, to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of those heinous crimes against women and girls;

[11] Resolution 40/34, annex.

5. *Also urges* Member States, as appropriate, to consider designing, implementing and evaluating comprehensive programmes aimed at preventing all forms of violence against women and girls and reducing related vulnerabilities of victims, as well as those risks unique to perpetrators of gender-related killing of women and girls, including by conducting research focused on public education and interventions that target those vulnerabilities and risks;

6. *Invites* Member States to strengthen the criminal justice response to gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular measures to support the capacity of Member States to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime and provide reparation and/or compensation to victims and their families or dependents, as appropriate, in accordance with national laws;

7. *Also invites* Member States to address the existing problems of underreporting by enhancing data collection and analysis, as well as sharing relevant data, in accordance with national laws, and related information on gender-related killing of women and girls, in order to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to give due consideration to the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice[7] in order to strengthen national responses to gender-related killing of women and girls;

9. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to support Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies, upon request, at the national, regional and international levels to address and prevent gender-related killing of women and girls;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to facilitate the gathering and dissemination of relevant and reliable data and other related information to be provided by Member States on their efforts to implement the present resolution;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue conducting and coordinating relevant research on gender-related killing of women and girls, particularly in connection with the standardization of the collection and analysis of data;

12. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN-Women and other specialized funds and programmes of the United Nations, to raise awareness among Member States regarding gender-related killing of women and girls;

13. *Invites* Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with information related to best practices and other relevant information related to the investigation and prosecution of these crimes, in accordance with national legislation, and in that regard encourages civil society organizations and academia to share relevant information with the Office;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting to discuss ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls, with a view to making practical recommendations, drawing also on current best practices, in consultation with relevant United Nations entities and human rights mechanisms, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Thailand to act as host to that meeting;

15. *Invites* Member States to give due consideration to ending violence against women and girls, as well as to the realization of gender equality and empowerment of women in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

16. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

70th plenary meeting
18 December 2013